

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 12:37-50

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**John 1:12**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name**

TOPICAL SUBJECT SEARCH KEYWORDS:

**Faith, Unbelief, Rejection, Eternity**

**INTRODUCTION**

***to the text***

***John 12:37-50***

With all the events recorded in John's gospel, it is expected that all those who read about Jesus Christ and His teachings and His miracles would naturally see the logic and reason for coming to Him in faith.

### **It is Reasonable to Trust Jesus**

Mark 12:37

And the common people heard Him gladly.

John 14:29

"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

## In Our Last Study In the Shadow of the Cross

### **Verse 36**

These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was **hidden** from them

### **His Public Address Has Now Ended**

## The Earthly End is Near

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

## Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ

### **Growing a Heart of Stone**

#### **1.) *A Continual Rejection of Jesus***

**vv. 37-38**

**37** But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, **38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

# Later In John 21 - John Says More About Jesus' Miraculous Works

John 21:25

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

## Growing a Heart of Stone

**a.) Continuing to Refuse His Message**

**v.37-38a**

**37** But although He had done so many **signs** before them, they did not **believe** in Him,  
**38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, **who**  
**has believed our report?**

# "Signs and Belief"

There are over 35 miracles recorded in the gospels which were performed by Jesus Christ Himself. This does not include the miracles in mass

Luke 6:19

And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

## The "who has believed our report"

**Is equal to today of saying...**

Who has believed the message of  
Christ?

### Isaiah 52:13-53:5

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; 15 So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider.

### CHAPTER 53

1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; he was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

## Growing a Heart of Stone

**b.) Continuing to Refute His Miracles**

**v.38b**

“And to whom has **the arm of the Lord** been revealed?”

The Revelation of the Power  
of God

Was The Miraculous Signs

But The Miraculous Signs Were Given for One Reason -  
*To Bring a Man to Faith*

Some people pursue Jesus for what they can get from Him  
Others pursue Jesus because of who He is

## **How we weather the hardships and difficulties of life determines where our faith is based**

John 14:11

Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

### **The Blindness of Unbelief**

**Luke 7:31-35**

And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 "They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned to you, and you did not weep.' 33 "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 "But wisdom is justified by all her children."

## **When Jesus is at Work in Man's Life That Man's Life Will Bare The Evidence**

### ***The logic behind the miracles***

Not to Wow You

But to bring you into a deeper faith in God's written word - the Bible

## **Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ**

### **2.) *Developing an Inability to Believe***

**vv. 39-40**

**39** Therefore they **could not believe**, because Isaiah said again: **40** "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." **41** These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

# Being Set in Your Ways

**a.) *By Losing the Ability to Think Clearly***

**v.39**

Therefore they **could not** believe

The "**Therefore**" here is all important based upon the context of scripture found here in John, the indictment began in Chapter 9 and has continued on to John 12

They Refused to Believe  
**In Jesus' Healing of the blind man in  
John 9**

They Refused to Believe  
**In Jesus' Shepherd's teachings in  
John 10**

They Refused to Believe  
**In Lazarus' resurrection from the dead in  
John 11**

They Refused to Believe  
**In Jesus at His Triumphal Entry in  
John 12**

Matthew 12:24

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Matthew 12:31-32

31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

You Can Only Stand In Wet  
Cement So Long  
Before It Becomes Concrete

## Being Set in Your Ways

***b.) By Wasting What has Been Given to You***

***v.40***

Because Isaiah said again:

**40** "He has blinded their **eyes** and hardened their **hearts**, lest they should **see** with their eyes, lest they should **understand** with their hearts and turn, **so that I should heal them.**"

Isaiah 6:1-10

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" 9 He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving." 10 Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Spiritual Eyes & Hearts  
Spiritual Sight & Understanding  
The Reason Behind the Parables

### Matthew 13:11-16

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

## This Is What Was Happening

### Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



# Being Set in Your Ways

## **c.) *By Failing to Understand the Will of God***

**v.41**

These things Isaiah said  
when he saw **His glory** and spoke of Him.

### Isaiah 6:1-13

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged....." 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed."

## Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ

### **3.) *Loving the Approval of this World***

**vv. 42-43**

**42** Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; **43** for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

## The Danger of Seeking the World's Approval

### **a.) *Seeking to Build a Reputation***

**v.42**

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, **but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him**, lest they should be put out of the synagogue

# A Danger Both In And Out of The Church

**Peer Pressure is Huge  
and...*Stupid* !**

## **The Danger of Seeking the World's Approval**

***b.) Desiring to Live for the Moment***

***v.43***

For they loved the **praise** of men more than the praise of God.

**praise**      The "well words," words of acceptance.

This Desire to be Accepted  
is Powerful in Our Lives

**It's Rooted in Insecurity  
And in the Fear of Others**

Ephesians 1:4-7

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking

## Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ

### 4.) *Having Entered into the Darkness*

vv. 44-46

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "**He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.**

### a.) *You Do Not Believe in God*

v.44

Then Jesus cried out and said,  
"**He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.**"

You Cannot Claim to Know God the Father Unless You Confess the Son.  
And you cannot Know The Son unless you confess the Father

John 5:22-23

"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

## Having Entered The Darkness

### b.) *You Have Never Exercised Faith*

v.45

**"And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.**

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding

Colossians 2:9

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

Isaiah 50:2-6

rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink because there is no water, and die of thirst. 3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering." 4 "The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, he awakens My ear to hear as the learned. 5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

## Having Entered The Darkness

***c.) You Haven't Come to Believe in Jesus Christ v.46***

**"I have come as a light into the world,  
that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."**

# **BELIEVEING IN JESUS CHANGES YOUR LIFE**

Ephesians 2:10-13

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. 11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

### John 3:18-19

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

## Those Who Do Believe in Him Do Not Walk In Darkness Why People Won't Believe in Jesus Christ?

### 5.) *Unwillingness to Listen to God*

vv. 47-50

47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 "And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

### a.) *Is Rooted in Self-Pride*

vv.47-48

47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—even the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

### b.) *Is Hostile toward Jesus Christ*

vv.49-50

49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 "And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

***Anything else that you have to offer as an excuse for why you don't believe in Jesus - is simply a smoke screen***

***-end of study-***